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1969/12/11

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POL 7 (AMB-CHICOM)

CONT: 3760/345

INDICATE:
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TELEGRAM

DATE: 11 DEC 69

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AMB
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(DUMMY)

ACTION: Secstate WASHINGTON IMMEDIATE

INFO : Amconsul HONG KONG
Amembassy MOSCOW
TAIPEI
TOKYO

WARSAW 3760

EXDIS

SUBJECT: Sino-US Meeting

4-16-88

REF : STATE 205598

SUMMARY. I met with Communist Chinese Chargé LEI Yang at his residence December 11. Bulk of meeting devoted to my statements, closely following language reftel and including proposal for formal meeting week of January 12-16, 1970. Lei asked clarification that we were proposing resumption "ambassadorial-level" talks, said he would report my statement to his Government, and that LO would be in touch with SIMONS. On press handling, agreement reached that so long as content conversation not revealed each side could decide manner in which fact of meeting should be

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AMB:WJStoessel,Jr/afm
POL:TSimons,Jr
CLEARANCES:

DRAFTING DATE 12/11/69 TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY: *Walter J. Stoessel, Jr.*

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given press. Atmosphere cordial. END SUMMARY.

1. Simons and I were received at 4 p.m. December 11 at door of Chinese Charge's residence by Lo, who introduced us to Lei Yang and to LIU (young Chinese Embassy officer who accompanied Lo to our Embassy December 7). After sitting down in divans facing each other and following few remarks concerning tea, Lei said I had wished to see him and invited me to begin. I then read following statement, which Simons translated para by para into Polish, and Lo into Chinese.
2. BEGIN STATEMENT. I am pleased to meet with you, Mr. Charge. With your agreement, I would like to make some remarks under instructions from my Government.

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3. Since this is the first face-to-face encounter since beginning of Nixon Administration between officials of our Governments, it provides an opportunity to begin exploring whether some improvement in our bilateral relationship may now be possible.
4. You and your Government are aware of statements by President Nixon and Secretary Rogers making clear our belief that there should be greater communication with the People's Republic of China, that we believe China has an important role in Asia, and that in the last analysis Asian decisions must be taken by Asian nations themselves, a process in which China should take a part. These statements are authoritative and serious.
5. We do not wish to engage in a sterile rehash of old ideological arguments. We recognize that major ideological differences will remain between us. We assume that many such differences will persist in the world. We believe, nevertheless, that an honest mutual effort to explore

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state-to-state differences can result in a reduction of tensions presently existing. This would be of benefit to both sides.

6. I am not authorized to broach specific issues or topics for discussion at this time. However, I would like to propose a formal meeting between representatives of our two Governments sometime during the week of January 12-16, or at a mutually agreeable date soon thereafter. I would tentatively suggest January 14. At such a meeting, each Government could set forth a prospective agenda or topics for discussion as well as any specific proposals and suggestions it wished.

7. I propose that the next meeting be conducted using the Chinese-English interpretation we have adopted in the past in such discussions. The need for clarity and ~~submis~~ avoidance of multiple interpretations are obvious advantages of such an approach.

8. As regards a meeting site, since the current meeting

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is being held in your Embassy, I propose the next meeting be held in the US Embassy and, thereafter, that the meetings should alternate between our respective Embassies. If this is not acceptable, the U.S. is willing to consider moving the site to an alternative city, or to consider other meeting arrangements which your Government might suggest.

9. I wish to conclude by reiterating the desire of the United States to improve relations with the Chinese People's Republic and our hope for a reduction in the tensions which have existed between our two Governments.

These views have been expressed by ~~the~~ officials of the US Government at the highest levels. END STATEMENT.

10. Following that part of my statement proposing Chinese-English interpretation, Lei asked several questions designed to clarify that meeting we proposed would be sequential meeting in our Warsaw talks and not simply another informal meeting with me like the present meeting

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or a meeting in a different format. I confirmed this understanding, noting that we had in mind meeting like those which have been held in past and which were intended to be at ambassadorial-level. Last such meeting was in January 1968, and there was to have been meeting of this type in Feb. 1969. These explanations apparently clarified matter for Lei.

11. In response my statement, Lei said following. BEGIN QUOTE. I listened with attention to the statement you made on instruction. I shall report the content of that statement as rapidly as possible to my Government. Concerning your proposition regarding the next meeting between you and me, it will be possible to agree telephonically via the liaison officers of both sides. For our part Attaché Lo will be in touch with you. END QUOTE.

12. I replied as follows. BEGIN QUOTE. I appreciate the attention with which you listened to my statement. For our part Mr. Simons will be the man in touch with Attaché Lo. We ~~will~~ await with great interest the response of your Government. END QUOTE.

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13. Lei/~~XXXX~~ if I had anything further to say. I replied with following statement concerning press handling. BEGIN QUOTE. I would like to raise the question of press treatment, Mr. Chargé. I can assure you that we do not intend to initiate an announcement that a meeting took place between us. However, the possibility exists that this will become known to the press. If we are asked by a correspondent who has some knowledge of our meeting, we will say: "The American Ambassador met with the Chargé of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese Embassy to discuss matters of common interest." If we are asked about the subject of our discussions, we will say: "By mutual agreement between our two sides, we do not divulge the contents of our meetings." We shall have no further comment. END QUOTE.

14. Lei responded as follows. BEGIN QUOTE. You have touched on the problem of giving the press ~~XXXX~~ news of our meeting. If such a communique does not touch on the content of the meeting, each side may decide. END QUOTE.

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Asked for clarification, he added following. BEGIN QUOTE.
 If the communique contained the content of today's meeting,
 the draft of the communique would have to be agreed by both
 sides and reported to the governments of both sides, and
 only after confirmation by the governments of both countries
 could it be given (bedzie mozna podac) out publicly.
 Otherwise we cannot express agreement. END QUOTE. I replied
 this also our understanding, that we would not reveal
 content and that we did not intend to initiate announcement.
 Lei said "I can express my agreement to this" Meeting
 then terminated..

15. Atmosphere cordial. Meeting lasted one hour and
 fifteen minutes and took place in large reception room
 of residence. Lei greeted me with handshake as I entered
 and took leave in vestibule with handshake for both Simons
 and myself. Tea served and cigarettes offered. Lei
 affable and soft-spoken throughout meeting. In conclusion
 I thanked him for hospitality and tea.

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16. Up to this time, we have received no further enquiries from HUCKER or other correspondents, although they may contact us during evening. We will report immediately if they do so.

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